

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (withdrawn): A method for use in establishing a group call, comprising:
based on a history of group calls between two points in a mobile communications network, determining whether to establish a multicast session between the two points.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): The method of claim 16, further comprising:
based on a history of group calls between two points in a mobile communications network, predicting a future demand for group calls between the two points.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): The method of claim 16, further comprising:
based on a history of group calls between two points in a mobile communications network, determining a topology of multicast sessions to use in a future group call in the mobile communications network.

Claims 19-20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (currently amended): A method for use in establishing a group call, comprising:

in a first proxy switch, detecting a group call request from a first mobile station;

informing a second proxy switch of the group call request;

in the second proxy switch, retrieving information from a list of members of a group call group; and

based on the retrieved information, establishing a group call between first and second mobile stations (MS) via the first and second proxy switches, wherein

~~The method of claim 14 wherein the first and second mobile stations are serviced by the first proxy switch and wherein establishing a group call between~~

~~the first and second mobile stations via the first and second proxy switches comprises:~~

by the first proxy switch,

when a first ~~mobile gateway~~ connection to the first proxy switch for the first mobile station has been created, acquiring a first channel for the first mobile station;

paging the second mobile station upon receiving an instruction from the second proxy switch;

informing the second proxy switch when the second mobile station is found;

when a second ~~mobile gateway~~ connection to the first proxy switch for the second mobile station has been created, acquiring a second channel for the second mobile station; and

informing the second proxy switch when the second mobile station is on channel.

Claim 22 (currently amended): A method for use in establishing a group call, comprising:

in a first proxy switch, detecting a group call request from a first mobile station;

informing a second proxy switch of the group call request;

in the second proxy switch, retrieving information from a list of members of a group call group; and

based on the retrieved information, establishing a group call between first and second mobile stations (MS) via the first and second proxy switches, wherein

~~The method of claim 14 wherein the first and second mobile stations are serviced by the first proxy switch and wherein establishing a group call between the first and second mobile stations via the first and second proxy switches comprises:~~

by the second proxy switch,

creating a first ~~mobile-gateway~~ connection to the first proxy switch for the first mobile station;

instructing the first proxy switch to page the second mobile station;

when informed that the second mobile station has been found, creating a second ~~mobile-gateway~~ connection to the first proxy switch for the second mobile station;

when informed that the second mobile station is on channel, instructing the first proxy switch to inform the first mobile station that a connection has been established; and

playing a tone to the first mobile station through the first ~~mobile-gateway~~ connection.

Claim 23 (cancelled):

Claim 24 (currently amended): A method for use in establishing a group call, comprising:

in a first proxy switch of a plurality of proxy switches, detecting a group call request from a first mobile station, wherein the first mobile station is serviced by the first proxy switch;

informing a second proxy switch of the plurality of proxy switches of the group call request;

in the second proxy switch, retrieving information from a list of members of a group call group; and

based on the retrieved information, establishing a group call between first and second mobile stations via the plurality of proxy switches, wherein the second mobile station is serviced by a third proxy switch of the plurality of proxy switches; and wherein

The method of claim 23 wherein the first mobile station is serviced by the first proxy switch, the second mobile station is serviced by a third proxy switch of the plurality of proxy switches and wherein establishing a group call between the first and second mobile stations via the plurality of proxy switches comprises:

when a first ~~mobile-gateway~~ connection to the first proxy switch for the first mobile station has been created, acquiring a first channel for the first mobile station by the first proxy switch;

by the third proxy switch, paging the second mobile station upon receiving an instruction from the second proxy switch ;

by the third proxy switch, informing the second proxy switch when the second mobile station is found;

by the third proxy switch, acquiring a second channel for the second mobile station when a second ~~mobile-gateway~~ connection to the third proxy switch for the second mobile station has been created; and

informing the second proxy switch when the second mobile station is on channel.

Claim 25 (currently amended): A method for use in establishing a group call, comprising:

in a first proxy switch of a plurality of proxy switches, detecting a group call request from a first mobile station, wherein the first mobile station is serviced by the first proxy switch;

informing a second proxy switch of the plurality of proxy switches of the group call request;

in the second proxy switch, retrieving information from a list of members of a group call group; and

based on the retrieved information, establishing a group call between first and second mobile stations via the plurality of proxy switches, wherein the second mobile station is serviced by a third proxy switch of the plurality of proxy switches; and wherein

~~The method of claim 23 wherein the first mobile station is serviced by the first proxy switch, the second mobile station is serviced by a third proxy switch of the plurality of proxy switches and wherein establishing a group call between the first and second mobile stations via the plurality of proxy switches comprises:~~

by the second proxy switch,

creating a first ~~mobile gateway~~ connection to the first proxy switch for the first mobile station;

instructing the third proxy switch to page the second mobile station;

when informed that the second mobile station has been found, creating a second ~~mobile gateway~~ connection to the third proxy switch for the second mobile station;

when informed that the second mobile station is on channel, instructing the first proxy switch to inform the first mobile station that a connection has been established; and

playing a tone to the first mobile station through the first mobile gateway connection.

Claim 26 (cancelled)